



North Carolina National Guard Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

TO: News Directors, Editors
FROM: Maj. Matt Handley
Public Affairs Officer
DATE: March 24, 2008
RE: Tarboro family remembers and celebrates the life and accomplishments of a hero killed in Iraq, Saturday.

TARBORO, NC – A Tarboro family today grieves the death of a son and brother killed in Iraq Saturday after his vehicle was targeted with an improvised explosive device.

The deceased, North Carolina National Guardsman and two time Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, Sgt. David B. Williams (Blake) 26 lived in Tarboro since 1988.

Born in Richmond, VA, Blake called Tarboro home graduating from Tarboro High School in 2000. Blake served in the Rocky Mount Headquartered, 1132nd Military Police Company. Blake is survived by his mother, Ms. Susan L. Williams, and sister, Mary Beth Williams.

The family spent part of Monday, one day after Easter, remembering Blake's commitment to service and funny mishaps surrounding care packages. Surrounded by family members, Mary Beth recalls what led her brother into military service. "He felt like he had a calling to serve", she said. "He loved what he did", added multiple family members.

Ms. Williams remembers the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd prompted Blake to join the National Guard. "He wanted to help" she added. Friends already in the National Guard prompted Blake to make the commitment, according to Ms. Williams.

Coming from a family rich in service to country, "He wanted to follow in his brother's footsteps", Ms. Williams said. Blake was preceded in death by his brother John C. Williams (Chris) and his father John D. Williams (Jac). Chris served in the Army for, four years.

Blake had a lot of pride in his service, "the uniform made him feel ten feet tall", said Ms. Williams. According to Ms. Williams, Blake had initial apprehension about returning to Iraq. "After he met some of the people over there this time, he knew he needed to be there, he was making a difference", said Ms Williams.

A stone faced Pvt. 1st Class photo reminds Ms. Williams of her son's enjoyment in service. She remarks, "he doesn't have that cocky grin {in the picture} that he normally shows". She doesn't think the stone face is indicative of his kind, caring nature.

The families' lasting memory is that of a son, brother, nephew and friend. Collectively, the family remembers him as a hero. Their hero remembered by his nickname, Turf Turtle, is terribly missed. The family is dedicated to remembering Blake as he was... a soldier.

Note to Editors and Reporters: Family does not wish to speak with the media.